

# Kielce

An aerial photograph of a historic courtyard in Kielce, Poland. The scene is captured during sunset, with a warm, golden light illuminating the sky and the buildings. In the foreground, a large, leafy green tree stands on the left. The central building has a dark, gabled roof and a prominent tower with a blue dome and a smaller spire. The courtyard is paved, and a few cars are parked in the lower right corner. In the background, a hill with a small structure on top is visible under the colorful sky.

The Greatest  
Tourist  
Attractions

*The legendary* origins of Kielce go back to the Middle Ages, when the area which today is home to the region's capital city was covered by dense forests full of wild game.

It was in such woods that Duke Mieszko, son of Boleslaw the Bold, went hunting with his team of men. One evening, he got separated from his companions. Lost, he was attacked by a gang of robbers. The brave heir to the throne fought them off until he successfully defeated them. Only one of the robbers survived and surrendered to the duke. The robber, in gratitude for saving his life, gave the thirsty duke a bottle. Mieszko, not anticipating the trick, drank poison instead of water and started choking. Suddenly, he saw a bright light out of which emerged St. Adalbert. Mieszko went down on his knees, while the saint drew a curved line with his crozier. The line filled with flowing water, which quenched the duke's thirst and washed the poison out of his mouth. Mieszko sounded the horn and soon his men appeared. While leaving the clearing, he noticed a pair of huge white fang-shaped outcroppings. He promised to build a castle with a church in this place. Shortly thereafter, a settlement was built in the heart of the forest, with a church dedicated to St. Adalbert erected in the clearing. The stream whose water had restored the duke's strength was called *Silnica* (Pol. *sila* – strength), and the village was named Kielce after the fangs that were found there (Pol. *kiel* – fang).



The first settlement from which the town of Kielce grew was located around the Church of St. Adalbert. Thanks to a ducal land grant there in the 12th century, the Kraków bishops created their own settlement hub in Kielce, building in 1171 a Romanesque collegiate on the hill towering over the earlier settlement.

In 1493, Cardinal Fryderyk Jagiellończyk gave the town its coat of arms with a golden crown and the letters C. K. on a red background. Kielce saw an economic awakening at the end of the 15th century and in the 16th century thanks to the development of lead, copper and iron mining, which, however, was interrupted by the Swedish invasion. Between 1624 and 1631, a Bernardine monastery was built on top of the Karczówka hill, and between 1637 and 1641, an early Baroque palace was erected on Castle Hill through the efforts of bishop Jakub Zadzik. The year 1724 saw the beginning of the construction of a seminary and a school, which later became a gymnasium under Russian authorities, followed by a secondary school. Currently, it is the seat of the Voivodeship Pedagogical Library and the Museum of Stefan Żeromski's School Years, celebrating

Kielce - home to the first technical university opened in Poland

Kielce - the only city in Poland which can boast the best preserved monument of the Vasa dynasty era - the Palace of the Kraków Bishops

It was here that the production of the famous Frania washing machines and iconic SHL motorcycles began

The melody of the song 'My Pierwsza Brygada (We are the First Brigade)', which is now the Official Anthem of the Polish Army, was heard for the first time in Kielce.

## Kielce - open-air geological paradise



the Nobel prize-nominated novelist. In 1789, the town ceased to be private property, and was nationalised. The diocese of Kielce was created in 1805, by the decision of Pope Pius VII.

In 1816, the capital of the Kraków Voivodeship was moved to Kielce (Kraków was a free town), while thanks to the efforts of Stanisław Staszic, the first Polish Technical University - Szkoła Akademiczno-Górnicza (School for Academic and Mining Education) - was established. Kielce also became the mining centre of the Staropolski Okręg Przemysłowy (Old Polish Industrial Region). During the January Uprising of 1863, Kielce and the surrounding area became the arena for a fierce fight for freedom. In 1885, a railway line was opened, connecting the town to Dęblin and Dąbrowa Górnicza. During the First World War, Kielce became engulfed in battles between the Polish Legions and Russian troops. On 1 October 1918, soldiers of the Polish Military Organisation disarmed the last of the Austrian army, bringing an end to the partitions of Poland and freedom to the city. In 1919, the Kielce Voivodeship was created. During World War II, partisans from various organisations were very active in the area.

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## ***Stanisław Staszic*** **City Park**

The park was created as a result of a 19th century expansion and modernisation of the city on land which, up until 1789, had been held by the Bishops of Kraków.

The river Biruta has its source near Staszica Street which leads to the park. In 1973, a sculpture called 'The vow of love' was unveiled here. The spring became immortalised in the novel 'Syzyfowe prace' (Sisyphean Labours) by Stefan Żeromski. On the other side of the pond, there is an 18th century statue of St. John of Nepomuk, and a monument made of red sandstone commemorating the daring assassination of a Gestapo agent, Franz Wittek, by Polish partisans in June 1944.

Through a spacious square with a concert shell, you can walk to the main park avenue. Next to it, there is a monument to Stanisław Staszic and a neo-Gothic wall with a charming tower called the 'Gossiping Girl'. From the avenue you can walk through the alleys to the gate with a small art gallery inside, and to ul. Zamkowa.



## Zieliński Palace

The palace is one of the most charming places on Castle Hill. In the middle of the 19th century, Tomasz Zieliński, the head of the Kielce district, transformed part of the former bishop's manor into a romantic palace-garden complex. After the renovation of the residential building constructed at the beginning of the 19th century, on the walls of the riding school erected in 175, he added neo-Gothic towers and a bastion and neo-Renaissance orangery on the eastern side, as well as a gate and a two-storey pavilion on the western side. From the south, the property was enclosed by a neo-Gothic wall with a bastion, called the 'Gossiping Girl'. In the courtyard, there is a memorial pillar with the names of people who achieved fame in the first half of the 19th century in the fields of science and art.

In the residence, the owner gathered priceless collections of art (they were dispersed after his death), and hosted well-known artists, mainly painters (among others J. Szermentowski, F. Kostrzewski, W. Gerson, J. Suchodolski).

Since 1985, the palace has been home to the House of Artistic Communities, which is bustling with life all year round. Live music reigns every Sunday evening; from May to October in the garden and in the concert hall in the other months. In addition, there are two art galleries in the complex: 'The Orangery' and 'The Laundress' House', as well as the permanent exhibition of instruments, 'The Hammond Museum'. In addition to a basic programme, the Palace offers a nice café and a beautiful garden.

House of Artistic Communities  
Tomasz Zieliński Palace  
ul. Zamkowa 5  
25-009 Kielce  
tel. +48 41 367 67 70  
[www.palacykzielinskiego.pl](http://www.palacykzielinskiego.pl)



## *Hammond Museum*

The Hammond Museum invites you to a short lesson in history combining music and technology. The Museum is the story of Laurens Hammond's life, his work and the amazing invention that changed the world stage of popular music. All this in a unique palace setting.

The first object visitors encounter is a statue of Laurens Hammond sitting behind his organ. A moment later, we enter a world of magic made-up of stories, images, and sound. The Hammond Museum is unique in that it is the only one of its kind in the world. The exhibition is divided into several thematic modules: history, Hammond in Poland, Hammond in the world, sound zone, Hammond Club, Leslie, My Hammond. One of the rooms is dedicated to Andrzej Zieliński (Skaldowie – a Polish rock group). In the permanent exhibition of instruments you can admire more than 60 models of Hammond organs, 27 models of clocks, and a table for shuffling and dealing bridge cards. An attraction for enthusiasts is the possibility to compare the sounds of different models of organs as well as to play on ... 'musical stairs'.

Hammond Museum,  
ul. Zamkowa 5  
25-009 Kielce  
+48 41 367 62 95  
[www.muzeumhammonda.pl](http://www.muzeumhammonda.pl)



## *Gallery of Contemporary Sacred Art 'Laundress' House'*

The original name of the gallery is connected to the extension of Castle Hill in the second half of the 18th century. The then Bishop of Kraków, Konstanty Felicjan Szaniawski, erected more and more utilitarian buildings in the centre of Kielce, including a flat for the preceptor's scribe and for the laundress. The building changed its purpose; after 1945 it housed the Security Authority for some time, then a warehouse of the nearby prison.

Thanks to the efforts of Leszek Mądzik, in 2005 the 'Laundress' House' Gallery of Contemporary Sacred Art, unique in terms of its profile, was opened. On the ground floor there are rooms for permanent exhibitions, showing a collection of works by contemporary Polish artists focused on a broad view of spirituality. The first floor of the building is used for temporary exhibitions.

'Laundress' House' Gallery of Contemporary Sacred Art  
ul. Zamkowa 5/7  
25-009 Kielce  
telephone +48 41 367 62 97  
[www.dompraczki.pl](http://www.dompraczki.pl)



## *Centre of Patriotic and Civic Reflection*

The buildings currently occupied by the Castle Hill institutions housed a prison for a century and a half. Today, the history of these sites is recalled by the Centre of Patriotic and Civic Reflection (OMPİO), a permanent and interactive historical exhibition devoted to the heroes of the struggle for Poland's independence - from the time of the Kościuszko Uprising until the second half of the 20th century. OMPİO is also a space for education, civic education, discussion, and for defining Polish patriotism.

The exhibition, which is a journey through the history of the city and the region, will show, among other things, the everyday life of Kielce residents during the German occupation and the profiles of underground soldiers. The exhibition in the basement and in the former punishment cellar is dedicated to the victims of repression by the German Gestapo and the communist apparatus of violence. The atmosphere of the place is created by the sound of falling drops of water, the rasp of keys in the door or the sound of prisoners being beaten. Visitors can also see the former prison cells, personal items of the prisoners, and the hook of the former gallows. Along the western wall of the prison is the Memorial Wall, on which porcelain plaques are permanently affixed with the images of people who died in the prison on Zamkowa Street or went to their deaths from there between 1939 and 1956.

Centre of Patriotic and Civic Reflection  
ul. Zamkowa 3  
25-009 Kielce  
+48 41 367 68 01  
[www.ompio.pl](http://www.ompio.pl)





## Design Institute Kielce

Through its exhibition, educational and production activities, the Institute influences urban space and the artistic sensibility of citizens and tourists.

The centre is housed in buildings that were originally farm buildings belonging to the bishops of Kraków, and in the 19th and 20th centuries were also used as prisons. Today, these unique interiors house design studios, a ceramics studio, and the Main Gallery. Exhibitions are also presented in the Gate Gallery, open to walkers in the city park, and in spaces throughout the Institute.

The works and installations made at the Institute can also be seen in urban spaces - in the market square, on the façade of the building at ul. Leśna 7 or in the form of temporary exhibitions. At ul. Wesola 38, there is the Embassy of Design with a fabric studio.

The employees of the Institute are involved in social actions in the city, organising workshops to promote design and cooperating with other artists in Poland and abroad.

You can find out what is currently happening at the Institute on its website.

Design Institute in Kielce  
 ul. Zamkowa 3  
 25-009 Kielce  
 +48 790 764 596  
[www.idkielce.pl](http://www.idkielce.pl)



## *Former Palace of the Bishops of Kraków*

The Palace is one of the finest and best preserved 17th century residences. It was intended to reflect the merits and achievements of the founder, the Kraków Bishop Jakub Zadzik. The construction of the palace began in 1637. In the following century, the north and south wings were added. In 1789, the Great Sejm decided in favour of making the palace state property. During the Partitions, it was the seat of governorate authorities while, in 1816, the first Polish Technical University – Szkoła Akademiczno-Górnicza (School for Academic and Mining Education), founded by Stanisław Staszic – was established in the north wing.

The palace was built in the Baroque style by Italian architects. It features a representative first floor called the *piano nobile*, an arcaded front loggia and four hexagonal towers topped with Baroque cupolas. In the main building, visitors can admire wonderful palace interiors, furniture, tapestries and original plafonds with paintings from the workshop of Tommaso Dolabella. The southern part of the Palace serves as the Sanctuary of Marshal Józef Piłsudski, and the north wing is home to



National Museum in Kielce  
pl. Zamkowy 1  
25-010 Kielce  
+48 41 344 40 15  
[www.mnki.pl](http://www.mnki.pl)



a gallery of Polish painting and decorative art, whose collection includes works by such masters as, for example, Szermentowski, Hądziwicz, Bożnańska and Pankiewicz. Visitors can enjoy the Italian gardens of the museum.



## Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Founded in 1171 by the Kraków Bishop Gedeon, it is the most important church in this area of the city. The first church was a small building in the Romanesque style, but frequent remodelling over the centuries has given it the appearance of a Baroque basilica. The eastern part of the church had plaster stripped off exposing the Romanesque sandstone blocks, on which medieval master stonemasons' house marks have been preserved. The north aisle features a plaque from 1782, presenting standards of weights and measures, the letters of the alphabet and basic principles of the Christian faith. From the west, you can enter the Basilica via the Baroque main portal made of marble from Chęciny. The main nave has a Baroque altar dating from the 18th century, with the painting of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary by Szymon Czechowicz. The walls of the presbytery are decorated with paintings commemorating important events in Polish history: The Establishment of Christianity in Poland and The Vows of Jan Kazimierz. In the north aisle, there is the chapel of the Lord Jesus with a 16th century crucifix set against a view of Jerusalem, embossed in silver plate, and a Łagiewniki triptych from 1500. In the southern aisle, visitors can see the Renaissance tombstone of Elżbieta Zebrzydowska, née Krzycka, as well as a particularly venerated painting of Our Lady of Grace of Kielce, crowned by Pope John Paul II during his pilgrimage in 1991. Next to the church, there is an 18th century bell tower and a tombstone commemorating the hero of the Kościuszko Uprising, Wojciech Bartos Głowacki.

Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption  
of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Kielce  
Plac Najświętszej Maryi Panny 3  
25-013 Kielce  
+ 48 41 344 63 07 (Parish office)  
[www.kielcekatadra.pl](http://www.kielcekatadra.pl)



# Diocesan Museum

The museum collects the most beautiful and historic works of sacred art of the Diocese of Kielce. The first room along the tour is a lounge room featuring 19th century interiors: a set of Empire style furniture, pictures and drawings. The Gothic Room features the oldest exhibits. Collected here are examples of Gothic sculpture and painting: the wings of the triptych from Rakoszyn near Nagłowice (ca. 1505), bearing the images of St. John the Baptist and St. John the Merciful; the Throne of Grace from Witów near Koszyce (early 16th century), i.e. a medieval image of the Holy Trinity. The following room is devoted to the bishops of Kielce. One painting which stands out from the rest represents Christ in the crown of thorns. Painted in 1900 by Jan Styka, it comes from a series of images dedicated to this subject. The furniture in this room, hinting at Renaissance furniture with its form, once used to embellish the bishops' dining room. A visit to the museum can be combined with a visit to the cathedral treasury.

Diocesan Museum in Kielce  
ul. Jana Pawła II 3  
25-013 Kielce  
+48 41 344 58 20  
[www.muzeum.kielce.pl](http://www.muzeum.kielce.pl)



## *The Laszczyk Manor House*

This manor house is located on the southern slope of Castle Hill behind a wooden fence with shingles on top. It is the last wooden object of this type within the city. The house was erected in the 18th century by Jakub Jaworski, the last starosta of Kielce. In 1988, it became the Kielce Region Countryside Museum's headquarters and exhibition space. Originally, the complex consisted of the manor house and outbuildings. According to archived sources from 1838 and 1848, the wooden, single-storey building of the manor house was built using larch wood, with an underpinning of fired brick and stone with lime mortar. Two stone storehouses were added to the wooden part from the side of the garden. The house was topped with a high hipped mansard roof covered with a single layer of shingles. In the front, it had a porch through which you passed into a dark hallway. Currently, the administrative areas are located at the rear of the property, and the interior of the house serves for exhibition purposes.

The Laszczyk Manor House  
Kielce Region Countryside Museum  
ul. Jana Pawła II 6  
25-025 Kielce  
Before 3 pm, tel.: + 48 41 344 92 97 Ext. 121  
After 3 pm, tel.: + 48 41 344 50 06  
[www.mwk.com.pl](http://www.mwk.com.pl)



## The Museum of Stefan Żeromski's School Years

More than 50 years ago, the entire house in which today's museum is situated was used by a secondary school with over 250 years of history. Among its famous graduates who should be named are: Adolf Dygasiński, Walery Przyborowski, Bolesław Prus, Gustaw Herling-Grudziński and Stefan Żeromski.

The Museum of Stefan Żeromski's School Years was founded in 1965 in order to commemorate the centenary of the writer's birthday. The exhibition focuses on the early life of Żeromski (growing up, first literary attempts, lower secondary school years), and also familiarises visitors with the place where Żeromski lived and created. The museum also exhibits manuscripts of Żeromski's works, for example the only surviving fragment of 'The Faithful River'. Among the various exhibits, the museum visitors usually particularly appreciate the following: a wooden school bag known in Polish as *deka*, a reconstruction of a gymnasium student's uniform, 19th century notebook and the cross beam from the author's manor house in Ciekoty.

The Museum of Stefan Żeromski's School Years,  
a branch of the National Museum in Kielce  
ul. Jana Pawła II 5  
25-013 Kielce  
+48 41 344 57 92  
[www.mnki.pl/zeromski](http://www.mnki.pl/zeromski)



# The Museum of Toys and Play

This is the largest and oldest toy museum in Poland. The Museum is in a historical 19th century building in Plac Wolności (Liberty Square), which was once home to an indoor market. Going through the exhibit is an extraordinary adventure for children, as the museum creates interactive exhibitions in which young explorers of the history of toys can not only look at but also touch the exhibits. Visitors to the museum can marvel at historical toys, dolls from around the world, the largest collection of folk toys in Poland, theatre puppets, an extensive collection of iconography, contemporary collections of most toy making cooperatives as well as modelling collections. During the tour, children have the opportunity to play in the play area and, and in the summer, also in the courtyard.

The Museum of Toys and Play

pl. Wolności 2

25-367 Kielce

+48 41 344 40 78

Group reservation: +48 41 343 37 06

[www.muzeumzabawek.eu](http://www.muzeumzabawek.eu)





## 'Magic of Caramel' Confectionery Workshop

An old pharmacy building, going back more than one hundred years, is home to the first confectionery workshop in Kielce, known as the 'Magic of Caramel'. It offers presentations on how caramels are made as well as 'from the plant to a chocolate bar' workshops. Visiting this smallest factory of sweets offers you an opportunity to make your own delicious lollipop, try freshly-made sweets that are still warm and find out what magic is involved in the production of colourful caramels. During the chocolate workshops, each participant may learn about the production process and the history of chocolate, try cocoa beans and chocolate from different parts of the world and, last but not least, make their own personalised chocolate bar.

'Magic of Caramel' Confectionery Workshop  
ul. Adama Mickiewicza 1  
25-352 Kielce  
+48 537 950 750  
[www.magiakarmelu.pl](http://www.magiakarmelu.pl)



## *Oskar Kolberg Świętokrzyska Philharmonic in Kielce*

The Świętokrzyska Philharmonic is part of the International Cultural Centre, a modern and functional space that creates an ideal meeting place for audiences with artists from all over Poland and abroad.

In addition to concerts performed by the Symphonic Orchestra of European renown, the rich calendar of events offers classical, pop and jazz concerts for music lovers. The flagship of the Philharmonic is the Świętokrzyskie Music Days festival, whose idea is to present Polish music, especially works not previously presented in Kielce.

The building of the Kielce Philharmonic is not only alive with music, however. The concert hall and the chamber hall are spaces with excellent acoustics and technical conditions which allow for the organisation of not only concerts but also small stage forms, conferences or film projections presenting important events from the world of music. The spacious foyer is the venue for many exhibitions, presentations and meetings.

Oskar Kolberg  
Świętokrzyska Philharmonic  
ul. Żeromskiego 12  
25-369 Kielce  
+48 41 368 05 01  
[www.filharmonia.kielce.pl](http://www.filharmonia.kielce.pl)



## History Museum of Kielce

The idea of establishing a museum dedicated to the history of the city dates back to the beginnings of museology in Kielce. The history of the city first appeared at exhibitions and in the collections of Polskie Towarzystwo Krajoznawcze (Polish Tourist Association), whose museum was created in Kielce in 1908. The museum is located in a historic, neoclassical building and its interiors hold many interesting exhibits, many of which have been donated by the local inhabitants from their family memorabilia. The permanent exhibition allows visitors to follow the captivating past of the city from the times before the city charter, through early medieval days, followed by the time Kielce was owned by the Bishops of Kraków, moving on to more recent history when the city was the centre of the voivodeship and the governorate, when Poland fought for independence, followed by the time of the Second Republic, World War II and the post-war period. The exhibits include, among others, medieval coins, weapons, fragments of pottery, objects of everyday use, paintings, photographs, and even the famous SHL motorcycle.

History Museum of Kielce

ul. św. Leonarda 4

25-303 Kielce

Tel. (Tue-Sun): + 48 41 340 55 26

Tel. (Mon): + 48 41 340 55 27, + 48 41 340 55 20

[www.mhki.kielce.eu](http://www.mhki.kielce.eu)



# Kielce Cultural Centre

Where the magnificent edifice of the KCK stands today there once used to be a small 16th century church dedicated to St. Leonard. Two centuries later, a convent of the Sisters of Mercy was established here, where the nuns were to run a hospital. This did not happen, however, and the unfinished building served for a while as a hospital for Kościuszko's insurgents, after which, in the years 1816-1818, it was rebuilt as the seat of the Kraków regional authorities. In 1974, the building was demolished to provide space for the construction of the Kielce Cultural Centre. Today, it is one of the largest cultural facilities in Poland, boasting two stages: one with a capacity of 200 people and the other of 700 people. The KCK stages concerts, performances, meetings and shows. The biggest events are the Off Fashion festival and the Memorial to Miles Targi Kielce Jazz Festival. Outstanding jazzman, Miles Davis, was immortalised in a statue which has been standing in front of the KCK since its unveiling in 2001.

Kielce Cultural Centre (KCK)  
plac Moniuszki 2B  
25-334 Kielce  
+48 41 343 81 42, +48 696 993 986  
[www.kck.com.pl](http://www.kck.com.pl)



## Kielce Dance Theatre

Kielce Dance Theatre grew out of Impuls – a modern dance ensemble established by Elżbieta Pańtak (Szlufik) – and was set up in 1995. Led jointly by Elżbieta and Grzegorz Pańtak, the ensemble became the Kielce Dance Theatre Association in 1998. On 11th March 2004, the theatre was established as a municipal cultural institution by a resolution of Kielce City Council and in 2013 it became a municipal artistic institution entered into the register of the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage.

The theatre directors' artistic conception is based on building a stylistically versatile team of performers. As a result, the theatre has put on a number of shows incorporating a variety of different styles and aesthetics of movement, focusing principally on jazz and modern dance. The theatre performs both small choreographed works and also larger pieces featuring a symphony orchestra and choir. Kielce Dance Theatre has performed shows on many stages both in Poland and abroad, and in addition to staging their own productions they also take part in co-productions.

Kielce Dance Theatre  
plac Moniuszki 2B  
25-334 Kielce  
+48 41 367 67 12  
[www.ktt.pl](http://www.ktt.pl)



## Artists' Square

From spring to autumn, the square located where Sienkiewicza and Kapitulna streets meet becomes the venue for exhibitions, happenings and outdoor events. Every year around September, it showcases contemporary installations by internationally recognised artists, such as the painter Leon Tarasewicz and the sculptor Ludwika Ogorzelec. Year round, the locals and tourists are reminded of the legend about the origin of Kielce thanks to the monument of a wild boar called Kiełek (Little Fang).

Artists' Square, at ul. Sienkiewicza 29, is also home to the Regional Tourist Information Centre and a local branch of the Polish Tourist and Sightseeing Society (PTTK).

Two walking trails depart from here: blue (going through the City Park and Kadzielnia to Pierścienica Mountain in the south of Kielce) and green (going through Kadzielnia and Wietrznia to Bukówka).



# Artistic Exhibitions Bureau

The Artistic Exhibitions Bureau [BWA] in Kielce is a contemporary art gallery located in the city centre, which invites you to exhibitions of painting, sculpture, graphics, photography and presentations of other fields of visual arts by Polish and foreign artists. BWA is the organiser of the Interdisciplinary Fine Arts Competition of the Świętokrzyski Region PRZEDWIOŚNIE [THE COMING SPRING], the International Biennial of Photography SPACE DEFINITION, and the International Triennial of Lithography LITHO-Kielce. In addition, it organises exhibitions in cooperation with other galleries and cultural centres in Poland and abroad.

BWA also invites the public to meetings, film showings, and artistic actions. It carries out educational activities aimed at different age groups. The institution continues to expand its art collection, collecting mainly works by artists from the Świętokrzyski region. Especially large is the collection of photographs by the creators of the Kielce School of Landscape.

Artistic Exhibitions Bureau in Kielce  
ul. Kapitulna 2  
25-011 Kielce  
+48 41 36 76 447  
[www.bwakielce.art.pl](http://www.bwakielce.art.pl)



## Street

Beginning at the monument of the celebrated author Henryk Sienkiewicz, it is the longest pedestrian street and the most prestigious address in Kielce. Its total length, ending at the train station in Plac Niepodległości (Independence Square), is approx. 1,270 metres. The origins of the street date back to the 17th century, and its rapid growth took place in the 19th century, when the surveyor Marian Potocki made a spatial development plan of Kielce. Today, it is lined with historic buildings from the 19th and 20th centuries and monuments reminiscent of the rich history of the city and its inhabitants.





# Market Square

The market square often hosts exhibitions and open-air concerts, with 19th and 20th century houses as the backdrop. Located in Pod Trzema Herbami [Under Three Coats of Arms] House is the Museum for Cultural Dialogue and its four exhibitions: 'From Diversity to Dialogue', 'The Ancient History and Early Medieval Period of Podlasie and Wislica', 'The History of the Automotive Industry in Miniature' and 'From Sacrum to Profanum: Painting and Sculpture in Folk Art' (free admission to permanent exhibitions on Sundays).

The most important objects in the market square include the Classicist building of the Town Hall, the Sołtyk House built in 1765 by Mateusz Gilba, the cook of Bishop Kajetan Sołtyk, the neoclassical Saski House and 'Wójtostwo' – the late 18th century house of the mayor, in which Tadeusz Kościuszko stayed in 1794. Many of the historical interiors of houses surrounding the square are now home to charming restaurants and cafes.

Museum Of Dialogue between Cultures  
 Branch of the National Museum in Kielce  
 The House under the Three Coats of Arms  
 Rynek 3, 25-303 Kielce  
 +48 41 344 60 96, [www.mdk.mnki.pl](http://www.mdk.mnki.pl)





## Puppet and Actor Theatre 'Kubuś' in Kielce

In the extensive repertoire of 'Kubuś', there is something for both seasoned audience members and those who, regardless of age, are just beginning their adventure with theatre. The performances of the Kielce Puppet Theatre have been attracting children, young people, and adults for almost 70 years.

The repertoire of 'Kubuś' is based primarily on adaptations of the greatest Polish and world literary works and contemporary drama. The performances are created with the participation of outstanding artists full of creativity and artistic sensitivity from Poland and abroad. The theatre also carries out many other interesting artistic and educational projects.

During the performances, the youngest spectators, accompanied by actors and characters known from fairy tales, fables and legends, will embark on an unforgettable theatrical journey full of warmth, emotions, and universal values. Adult audiences will be treated to innovative interpretations of the works of William Shakespeare, Miron Białoszewski, and Bruno Schulz.

The beginnings of the theatre were not easy; it did not have its own permanent seat and operated on a travelling basis. Today, the legendary, colourful auditorium of 'Kubuś' is located in a tenement house at ul. Duża 9 and as soon as in 2023 the theatre will move to new premises on Castle Hill.

Stefan Karski Puppet and Actor Theatre 'Kubuś' in Kielce  
ul. Duża 9  
25-304 Kielce  
+48 41 368 02 93  
rezerwacje@teatrklubus.pl  
www.teatrklubus.pl



## STEFAN ŻEROMSKI THEATRE IN KIELCE

The Stefan Żeromski Theatre in Kielce is one of the oldest stages in Poland. Construction of the building on the main street in Kielce, Sienkiewicza 32, then called Pocztowa, began in 1877. There is a romantic legend surrounding the origin of the stage; the rich industrialist, brewer and philanthropist Ludwik Stumpf fell in love with a Warsaw actress. He decided to build a theatre so that his beloved could be closer to him. The further fate of their love is unknown.

Today, the theatre is over 140 years old and the walls of the tenement house in ul. Sienkiewicza are a cultural heritage of the local community. The Theatre is the only professional dramatic stage in the Świętokrzyski region, but its significance goes beyond the local area. It has made its mark on the cultural map of Poland by drawing on both classical and contemporary texts supported by new means of dramatic narration. Each season, an average of six premières are prepared and around 230 performances are staged. More than 50,000 people visit the Theatre in Kielce every year.

Since 2017, the Theatre has hosted the International Theatre Festival. The institution also conducts extensive non-theatrical and theatre-related activities. For more than 30 years, at the end of June the 'For the Wild Rose' Audience Poll has been held for the best performance of the season.

Stefan Żeromski Theatre  
ul. Sienkiewicza 32  
25-507 Kielce  
+48 41 344 60 49  
[www.teatrzeromskiego.pl](http://www.teatrzeromskiego.pl)

Temporary seat  
of the Theatre for the duration  
of the renovation  
ul. ks. Piotra Ściegiennego 2  
25-033 Kielce



## *Institute for the Culture of Encounter and Dialogue*

The Institute for the Culture of Encounter and Dialogue is a place dedicated to remembrance, reconciliation and relationship building. Its mission also includes educating, preserving the memory of the victims of the Kielce Pogrom, and organising cultural events. At the headquarters of the Institute, one can see a permanent exhibition entitled 'Remember the Former Things of Old' (Isaiah 46:9), which tells about the tragic events of 1946. The exhibition features multimedia displays, such as recordings of testimonies by those who survived the massacre, and a timeline of events. After seeing the exhibition, visitors can go to the Blessings Room, where they can pray, meditate or just think for a little while in silence. The Institute also organises temporary exhibitions and events.

Institute for the Culture of Encounter and Dialogue  
 ul. Planty 7  
 25-508 Kielce  
 +48 577 809 333  
[www.jankarski.org.pl](http://www.jankarski.org.pl)

***The Jewish cemetery in Kielce***, located at the intersection of Pakosz Dolny and Kusocińskiego streets, was founded in 1868. There are around 330 matzevot in the cemetery, out of which approximately 150 are located in the lapidary.

The cemetery is open for visitors by appointment only. To visit, please contact: +48 783 084 183, +48 782 793 072.



# Bus Station

It's one of the most interesting utility buildings in Poland, which still decorates postcards from Kielce. The UFO-like bus station has been a landmark of the city since 1984. The main objective for the architects of the building was the comfort of travellers; thanks to the circular shape, each passenger had to travel the same distance from the centre of the station to the departure gate. After many years, the station has now been completely renovated. Residents and tourists attended the grand opening of the station in August 2020.

The history of the station can be seen in the remnants of the previous building, one of which is a wall lined with broken porcelain plates from Ćmielów. A pillar and one of the benches of the former station have also been preserved.

At the station, passengers can now enjoy cosy waiting areas, have a meal and a good cup of coffee. They can also use the *Poczytelnia na dVoRcu – Mediateka* [reading room at the station], the most modern library in the Świętokrzyski region.

In the modern Kielce Promotion Centre, tourists will find free maps and guides and will learn what to visit in the city and its surroundings. Furthermore, the office space is used for temporary exhibitions and lectures.

Bus Station  
ul. Czarnowska 12  
25-504 Kielce  
Informacja: +48 41 250 79 90  
[www.dworzec.kielce.pl](http://www.dworzec.kielce.pl)

Kielce Promotion Centre  
ul. Czarnowska 12  
25-504 Kielce  
+48 797 608 450  
[informacja@kielce.travel](mailto:informacja@kielce.travel)

An aerial photograph of the Kadzielnia quarry area. The foreground shows a modern, circular amphitheatre with a green, ribbed roof. To the left, a paved path leads to a monument on a grassy hill. The background is filled with dense forest in vibrant autumn colors (yellows, oranges, and reds) and a residential neighborhood with houses and buildings. A large rock formation is visible on the right side of the image.

# Kadzielnia

The inanimate nature reserve comprising the Geologists' Rock together with the rest of the former Kadzielnia quarry is an open-air geological paradise. There was a warm sea in this area about 380 million years ago, of which rocks and fossils are a reminder. The Kadzielnia area is one of the best known cave sites in the Świętokrzyskie Mountains. There are as many as 25 caves here. Three of them, the *Prochownia* [Gunpowder Room], *Odkrywców* [Explorers], and *Szczelina* [Crevice] can be visited on a 130-metre-long underground tourist route. The uniqueness of the place is completed by a modern amphitheatre integrated into the surroundings, where concerts and shows take place every year, including among others the International Scout Festival of School Youth Culture, Polish Cabaret Night, or the Dance Music Festival.



Kadzielnia can be admired during a walk along comfortable marked paths and from vantage points at monuments testifying to the rich history of the city and its surroundings. The brave ones enjoy a zip line descent over the former quarry. During low temperatures, thanks to the Świętokrzyski Alpinist Club, in cooperation with Geonatura Kielce, a phenomenal icefall is created at Kadzielnia.

Underground Tourist Route

+48 695 213 381 (pre-booking required)

Zip line at Kadzielnia

+48 576 368 382

More information: [www.geonatura-kielce.pl/kadzielnia](http://www.geonatura-kielce.pl/kadzielnia)



# Botanical Garden in Kielce

The Botanical Garden in Kielce, located on the slope of Karczówka Hill, is an enclave containing some of Poland's most beautiful plants, with a special focus on the characteristic species of the Świętokrzyskie region. The higher parts of the garden provide broad views of the city and the adjacent Świętokrzyskie mountains. Walk along the well-maintained pathways and enjoy the rich collection of roses, the heath, the collection of azaleas and all the other collections of decorative plants found in the garden. Also worth a look is the extensive and very interesting Utilitarian Plant Department, which contains collections of spice crops, medicinal plants and orchard plants, as well as the Village Garden. Most of the trees and shrubs come from local native species, such as firs, beeches, hornbeams and oaks, planted in a collection called Leading Forest Collections of the Świętokrzyskie Mountains. The garden also abounds in trees and shrubs from other continents, such as East Asia and North America.

During the summer season, you can enjoy a cup of coffee and a sweet treat in the garden.

Geonatura Kielce – Botanical Garden  
ul. Jagiellońska 78  
25-734 Kielce  
+48 41 367 84 68  
[www.geonatura-kielce/ogrodbotaniczny](http://www.geonatura-kielce/ogrodbotaniczny)





# KARCZÓWKA

Karczówka is a picturesque hill rising to an altitude of 341 metres above sea level. Located in the western part of Kielce, it is protected as a natural reserve. On its summit, there is an ex-Bernardine monastery and a 17th century church dedicated to St. Charles Borromeo. The hill and surrounding area were once called Ore Mountains due to the presence of mineral deposits, e.g. galena. Galena is what the statue of St. Barbara – the patron saint of miners – which can be seen in the church on Karczówka is made of. An educational trail presenting the remains of shafts and heaps left after extracting the raw materials goes through the hill and the surrounding area. At the foot of the mountain, hikers can find the starting point of the red trail leading to Chęciny. It is named after Sylwester Kowalczewski, a local teacher, author, guide and activist. From 2019, views of the surrounding mountains can be admired from a vantage point on the monastery tower.

The Society of the Catholic Apostolate THE PALLOTTINES  
pl. Karczówka Klasztor 1  
25-602 Kielce  
+48 41 243 61 03  
[www.karczowka.com](http://www.karczowka.com)



# Jan Czarnocki Rock Reserve

A geological paradise near one of Kielce's residential districts, an ideal place for walks for Kielce residents and tourists. Ślichowice is a former quarry where Upper Devonian limestone used to be mined. The limestone was strongly undulated during successive geological movements. Today we will see an overthrown fold and a horizontal fold, textbook examples of tectonic formations. A keen eye will also spot copper and lead sulphide mineralisation. Interesting vegetation is also protected by law, including xerothermic grasslands, barberry, wild rose, and steppe cherry. All this makes Ślichowice extremely valuable in educational terms.

Ul. Kazimierza Wielkiego in the Ślichowice residential district leads to the reserve.



# Geoeducation Centre in Wietrznia

This modern and interactive facility situated within the Wietrznia geological reserve combines learning with fun. Visitors can take a tour of the Earth Gallery, which presents the geological history of the region and, in particular, the Devonian Period, in an interesting and accessible way. The extraordinary backdrop of a futuristic research station, combined with displays of marine habitats and organisms from 360 million years ago, the Geolaboratory zone and a 5D cinema capsule, means that any visit to the exhibition housed in the Geoeducation Centre is sure to be an unforgettable experience. Within the building itself, visitors will also come across a grinding workshop and an interactive large-format Geology Game, while families can learn more about geology together in the Geology Lovers Club. As well as these indoor attractions, tourists can also visit the Geological Garden of Experiences – an educational playground aimed at promoting Earth science among children and young people.

Geonatura Kielce – Geoeducation Centre  
Zbigniew Rubinowski Wietrznia reserve  
ul. Daleszycka 21  
25-202 Kielce  
+48 41 367 68 00  
[www.centrum-geoedukacji.pl](http://www.centrum-geoedukacji.pl)



# Energy

## Science Centre

A place whose purpose is to popularise science through play and experimentation, the Energy Science Centre in the Kielce Technology Park is geared towards all visitors, regardless of their age. The Centre consists of several sections:

- the 'Energy' exhibition with 28 interactive stations where you can conduct experiments on your own, including an over 750 kg wheel and axle.
- the 'Power Generator' laboratory - here popular science workshops are held and everyone can feel like a real scientist, put on an apron, gloves, protective goggles and explore, test, and discover.
- cinema - by watching a unique film, you can learn about the flow of energy in nature and how it is used. The cinema also hosts scientific shows, meetings with experts, lectures and discussions.
- the Experimental Energy Garden - it is designed to conduct experiments in the outdoors. It features, among other things, a special gym, a slide which works thanks to differences in ground elevation, a merry-go-round powered in an unusual way, a balance beam and a whole zone concerning optical issues. For when explorers get hungry, the leisure area can also be used to have a barbecue.

Energy Science Centre - Kielce Technology Park,  
ul. Olszewskiego 6 (SKYE INC building, 2nd floor)  
25-663 Kielce  
+48 41 278 72 50  
[www.ecn.kielce.pl](http://www.ecn.kielce.pl)



## Ara Parrot House

A visit to the Ara Parrot House is an opportunity to see exotic bird species from all around the world – from South America, Asia, Africa and even Australia. The house is home to many different species, such as the macaw, the grey parrot, the cockatoo, the burrowing parrot, the Alexandrine parakeet, the sun parakeet, the green-cheeked parakeet, and many others. These beautiful birds are not kept in cages, so it's possible to admire them from up close – you can even stroke them or feed them out of your own hand. It is the perfect way to have fun and relax at the same time, for both children and adults alike.

Ara Parrot House  
Al. Solidarności 20 (2nd floor)  
25-320 Kielce  
+48 660 109 886



## Tropical pools

The pools are a tropical paradise in the capital of the Świętokrzyskie Mountains. Here, 365 days a year, you can immerse yourself in warm, crystal-clear turquoise waters and relax among lush vegetation coming straight from exotic islands.

Relax while sipping a cocktail at the water bar. Sit back in your pontoon and embark on a water trip on a slow-moving river. And if you need a bit of a faster pace, enjoy one of the three water slides. The longest one, the Magic Eye, can be travelled together with your family or friends in a multi-person pontoon. You will be accompanied by amazing lighting effects reminiscent of distant space travel.

A special area full of geysers and countless toys as well as a water playground with gushing fountains, magic tunnels and water animals provides a safe space for unconstrained fun for the little ones.

Tropical Pools Binkowski Resort  
ul. Szczepaniaka 42  
25-043 Kielce  
+48 41 340 35 60  
[www.basenytropicalne.pl](http://www.basenytropicalne.pl)



Recreation

## and Hippotherapy Centre MAAG

Riding is much more than just training in the saddle. It is, above all, passion and love for horses - two factors that have driven the owners and supporters of the MAAG centre for almost 40 years.

The very location of the equestrian centre, on the outskirts of the city, at the foot of Telegraf Hill, the highest hill in Kielce, creates ideal conditions for contact with nature and for exploring the green parts of the city from the perspective of horseback.

If you or your loved ones would like to start a horse-riding adventure and learn the secrets of horse-riding, MAAG invites you to its premises for your first lessons in the saddle, lunge lessons, and guided tours for the youngest.

The centre is a disabled-friendly place. Hippotherapy classes are run by experienced instructors and therapists. They are accompanied by patient and gentle horses that provide a sense of comfort and security, both for patients and their carers.

Recreation and Hippotherapy Centre MAAG  
ul. Księdza Piotra Ściegiennego 207  
25-116 Kielce  
tel. +48 601 47 13 23  
[www.maagkielce.pl](http://www.maagkielce.pl)



Active

# Kielce

Kielce is the natural place for what you want to do. Surrounded by forests and located in the Świętokrzyskie Mountains, the city creates ideal conditions for relaxing in nature, regardless of the season.

Planning a hike or Nordic walking tour? Great! Whether it is a short trip or a longer excursion, Kielce has walking paths leading to five nature reserves, as well as long-distance trails that will take you through the gentle peaks of the Świętokrzyskie Mountains all the way to Chęciny, famous for its royal castle ruins.

Kielce is also crossed by the Green Velo trail, the longest cycling route in Poland. The whole route is 2000 kilometres long, but you do not have to do it in its entirety. Thanks to the route, you can organise trips around the city as well as to the immediate vicinity, for example to the picturesque Oblęgorek or to Borków, located by a recreational lake.

The youngest cyclists will enjoy a trip through a park full of attractions and the city centre. Thrillseekers will certainly appreciate the natural obstacle courses at Telegraf Hill (the highest hill in the city - 406 m above sea level) or at Pierścienica [Ring Mountain] (367 m above sea level).

Speaking of these two hills, in winter there are ski resorts that are picturesquely integrated into the natural slopes. The descent from the Pier-





ścienica will be ideal for beginners, while the steep slope of Kielce's highest peak, Telegraf Hill (406 m), will certainly appeal to more advanced skiers and snowboarders.

At the end of an active day it is time to relax in one of the 5 municipal swimming pools. If you need a sauna session for complete relaxation, you will find it in the 'Delfin' complex at ul. Krakowska.

Information on hiking and cycling routes  
<https://www.kielce.eu/pl/dla-turysty>

Green Velo Trail  
<https://greenvelo.pl/>

Sports and Recreation Centre 'Stadion'  
<https://stadion.kielce.pl/>

Sports and Tourism Centre 'Telegraf'  
<https://telegrafkielce.pl/>

Municipal Sports and Recreation Centre  
<http://www.mosir.kielce.pl/>



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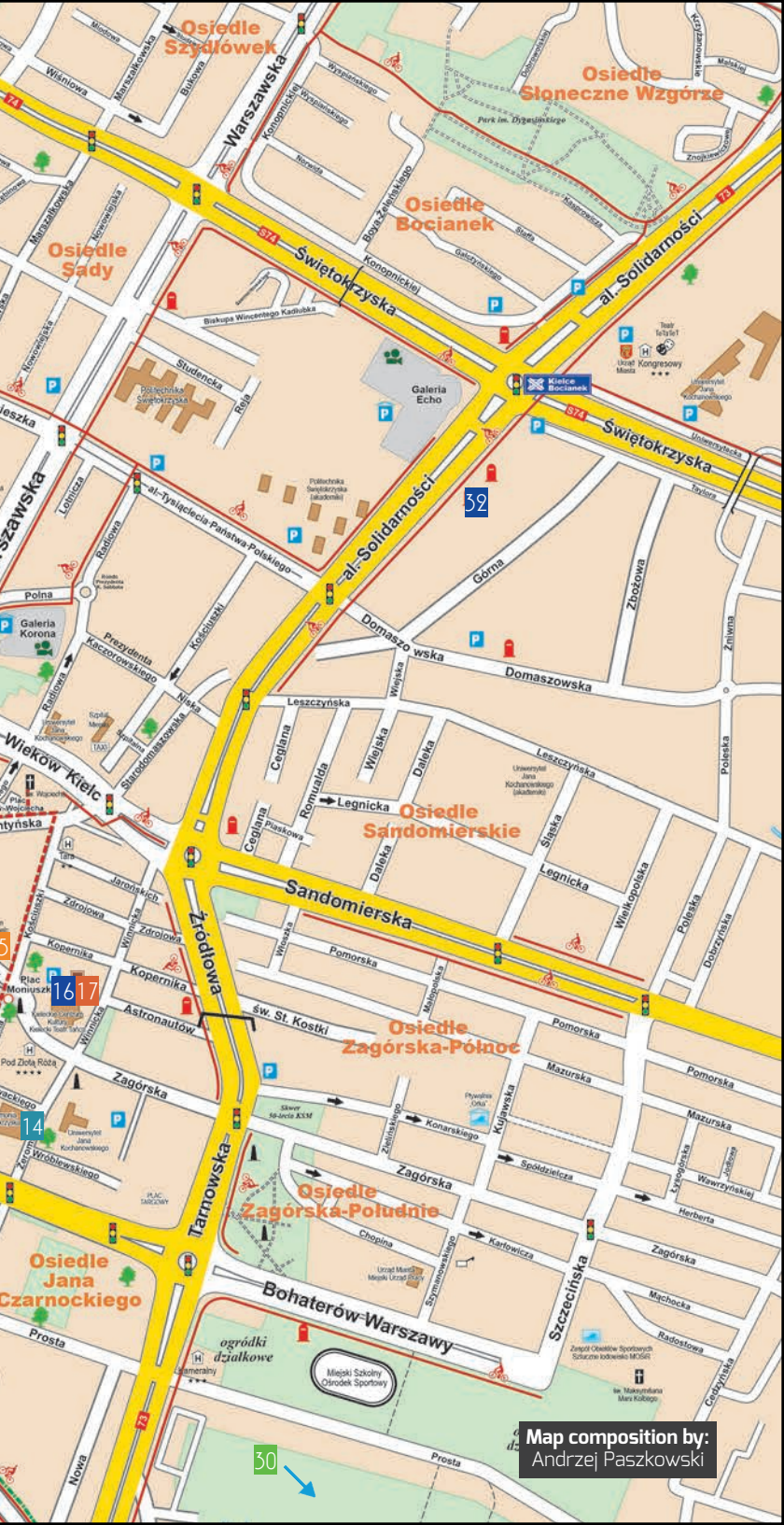
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Osiedle Szydłówek

Osiedle Słoneczne Wzgórze

Osiedle Socianek

Osiedle Sady

Galeria Echo

Kinoteka Socianek

Osiedle Sandomierskie

Osiedle Zagórska-Północ

Osiedle Zagórska-Południe

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Miejski Szkolny Ośrodek Sportowy

Zespół Ośrodków Sportowych Służącełodniwemu MZS

św. Maksymiliana Marii Kolbego



More information on the pages:



[www.kielce.eu](http://www.kielce.eu)



[www.rajdladzieci.kielce.eu](http://www.rajdladzieci.kielce.eu)



[www.swietokrzyskie.travel/en/](http://www.swietokrzyskie.travel/en/)



[www.kielce.bike.pl](http://www.kielce.bike.pl)



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